

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03654 300354Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05  
IGA-02 /085 W  
-----102761 301337Z /43

R 291200Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8289  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONGKONG  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3654

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CH, CE, ETRD  
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA-PRC TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: COLOMBO 3635

1. REFTEL REPORTED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY GSL OF UPCOMING ANNUAL NEGOTIATION WITH PRC OF RICE-RUBBER AGREEMENT. LOCAL PRESS ADDITIONALLY REPORTED THAT GSL DELEGATION WILL VISIT VIET-NAM ENROUTE HOME TO SRI LANKA FROM PRC.

2. IN SEPT. 28 CONVERSATION WITH DCM, COLOMBO-RESIDENT ROK DEPUTY TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, MOON KI WOO, SAID GSL WAS

DELAYING ELEVATION OF HIS OFFICE TO FULL STATUS ROK EMBASSY UNTIL AFTER TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC. GSL HAD TOLD ROK TRADE REP THAT IT DID NOT WISH TO COMPLICATE NEGOTIATIONS IN PEKING BY HAVING THEM ACCOMPANIED BY NORTH KOREAN PRO-TESTS TO CHINESE.

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3. WOO SAID THAT GSL HAD GIVEN NO INDICATION IT INTENDED TO ACCOMPANY TRANSFORMATION OF ROK TRADE REP OFFICE INTO EMBASSY WITH PARALLEL MOVE TOWARD NORTH KOREANS WHO CONTINUE TO LACK RESIDENT REPRESENTATION IN COLOMBO. HOWEVER, WOO HAD NOTICED RECENT PRESENCE HERE FROM NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. HE WAS

ALSO AWARE OF POSSIBILITY THAT GSL MIGHT PERMIT LOCAL LEFT-WING PARTICIPATION IN NEXT MONTH'S PYONGYANG THIRD WORLD YOUTH MEETING, WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS OFF-SETTING GESTURE TO OPENING OF ROK EMBASSY.

5. IN PRECEDING CONVERSATION SAME DAY, PRC COUNSELOR YANG HUI-SHEGN, TOLD DCM THAT NEXT MONTH'S PEKING NEGOTIATIONS WITH GSL WAS MERELY UPDATE OF TRADITIONAL RICE-RUBBER EXCHANGE. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TONNAGES TO BE EXCHANGED, SUBSEQUENTLY ADJUSTED BY SRI LANKANS IN ACCORD WITH OTHER RICE AVAILABILITIES, FOLLOWED BY FINAL PAYMENT SETTLEMENT IN ACCORD WITH WORLD PRICES FOR THESE COMMODITIES. WE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SOMEWHAT MORE LIMITED DESCRIPTION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAN THAT CONTAINED IN GSL ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) WHICH INCLUDES A TRADE PROTOCOL GOVERNING OTHER LISTED COMMODITIES. WRIGGINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** TRADE, AGREEMENTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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